THE LOG

TOC H WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

March-April 1963

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MARCH-APRIL, 1963

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MARCH-APRIL, 1963

WORK is a blessing.

This is written on a day when I *haven't* too little to do! But I still know that it is those who are occupied—who are doing a job at which they are skilled—who are the least likely to make trouble round about—whether among their families, their friends or in disrupting other people's work.

I think that many people have forgotten what a blessing work is; that there is too much propaganda about how "easy" it is to do this, how "quick" to do that, how "fabulous" it is to lie for hours and days and weeks in the sun, doing nowt.

Of course it would be wonderful to lie for hours in the sun with only a few thoughts like goldfish gliding through one's vacant mind, but only as a *change*. The good bread and butter of life is in everyday work—whether in the house, making a home for a family, or at an outside job. The cake is sharing the fun with other people, whether the fun of leisure or the fun of work with them.

And bread and butter has a taste all of its own, a *good* wholesome taste on the tongue. We read about strikes, about unemployment, about whether work-weeks should have shorter hours, whether there ought to be no overtime, whether there ought to be more. . . . Some of this talk is necessary—a fair basis of work is right and proper—but it sometimes seems to me that too many people have heard some propaganda or other —sounding like drums, it is so hammered into their heads— that work is not really fit for humans.

Work is a blessing.

Thank goodness for it.

And if more people in this country realized that they really *like* it, the better we should be and the better some of the wheels would spin round. It is good to feel you are part of the working community, good to feel you can do a job, good to feel a sense of triumph when you manage to do some part of your job well.

This is why I think good cooks must have such a time of it: they can triumph every day . . . and theirs *is* nice work if you can eat it!

Editor: BARBARA VISE

EDUCATION

SECOND chances in education are few and far between, and, even when opportunity comes, it takes courage to go back to School after a long break; and there are also home responsibilities to take into account. But those who are in a position to take advantage of an educational opportunity might like to know of a College which would give them a second chance.

Hillcroft College at Surbiton in Surrey, which celebrates its 43rd anniversary this year, has provided over the years just such a second chance for hundreds of women and girls willing to take the plunge into full-time education.

"It just didn't seem natural, reading books at nine o'clock in the morning. But it was wonderful." Jane, one of the 50 resident students at Hillcroft College, is a former typist who left school at 15. She is now, at the age of 31, doing a year's study at the College and plans to go on to a teacher training course.

STUDENTS must be over twenty, but there is no upper-age limit. The oldest student last year, a housewife, was forty-eight. Thirty is the average age. Women come from all over the world; from Ghana and Japan, from Tanganyika and Denmark, from Nigeria and Poland, and from all walks of life; bus conductresses, factory workers, office workers, housewives, nurses, hairdressers, dressmakers and shop assistants. They have in common the fact that they left school early and "found" themselves late.

A desire to learn is the chief qualification for entry. A background of serious reading is helpful, and evidence of some systematic study, such as attendance at W.E.A. classes or week-end schools, is welcomed. But every applicant is considered by the Principal on her individual merits.

Desire to Learn

The basic aim of Hillcroft is to help students realize their own capabilities for creative work in the community. The pattern of living, as offered by this spacious, gracious college in metropolitan Surrey, stirs the mind and sharpens the conscience. Usually students choose three related subjects for special study. The range includes Economics, History—especially Social History—Literature, Psychology, Current Affairs, Political Theory, Art History, Sociology and English Language. They are encouraged to attend lectures and to read round subjects other than their own. Seminars, individual tutorials and group discussion are integral to the curriculum. Complete freedom of choice lies open, and students find, to their perpetual wonder, that "each subject opens out six others".

. . . a second chance

How many women who were happy to leave school in their early teens look back after ten or even twenty years and wish that they had made more of their educational opportunities? How many never had a chance at all to stay on at school?

By CONSTANCE DYSON

Enhancing Learning

Work has a cultural as well as an academic and social context. Drama, Public Speaking, Musical Appreciation, and Art in different forms are studied. Framed paintings by the students hang on panelled walls throughout the College; their vigour and freshness delight the eye. Students enjoy the stimulus of frequent visits to art galleries, to concerts, to the theatre, and to social institutions of all types, especially as these visits are follow-ups to lectures, discussions and art sessions in College.

Learning at Hillcroft brings with it many qualities: personal confidence, the impact of constantly changing ideas, the illumination of mutual experiences, the luxury of relaxing to think and to read. It means also a deeper understanding of communal life. Affairs of the College are discussed at the residents' meeting—the College Parliament—and tackled by everyone. Small teams of students regularly, but in rotation, undertake light orderly duties, both in the spacious house and in the rambling garden. Service to the community becomes practical and immediate.

The sense of service towards, and pride in, society, is a special quality of Hillcroft students. Since the war many students have passed through the College and of these nearly 200 came from overseas; several were the wives of European-educated officials from the emergent territories, others, teachers, social workers and nurses. About one-third of the old students have married or returned to their previous or similar employment. Over a half have taken up professional work (several have obtained degrees) especially in social work or teaching. From educational administration in Nigeria and secretarial work in Tanganyika,

care of the handicapped, librarianship, speech therapy, probation work, welfare in its myriad manifestations, and the whole gamut of teaching, there is little of the realm of social service to which Hillcroft students have not successfully turned. Toc H is noted for its service to the community, and its members would feel at home in Hillcroft.

Financial Struggle

The College had a great struggle financially in the past but was helped by many liberal endowments and bursaries. Now the Ministry of Education helps generously and so do many Education Authorities who award bursaries to students from their areas. No prospective student, therefore, should be deterred by lack of means from applying.

If you are interested and want to apply for entry, or know of anyone else who would like to go to College, application is easy. Write to the Principal now for particulars and advice (*Hillcroft College, Surbiton, Surrey*)—you are in time for the session beginning September 1963—your second chance of education.

Photograph by courtesy of LOWESTOFT JOURNAL

What's going on here—see page 55!

brief ENCOUNTER...

WE were happy to meet Frances Beeton when the "Northern Star" stopped for a short time in Durban Harbour, on its way from U.K. to Australia.

Plans for a finger supper at which she would be able to meet a cross-section of members of the Toc H W.A. in Durban and District were unfortunately cancelled, after it was learned that she would be in Durban for only a brief ten hours.

Miss Beeton was met on board by Mr. and Mrs. Don Mackenzie from the T.B. Settlement, Bothas Hill, and taken to visit the beachfront. After which she was whisked off to the Settlement to see the work done there.

After lunch, Miss Beeton was brought back to Durban via the Valley of 1000 Hills to Albert Park where she was met by ten members of the Toc H W.A. Mrs. Irene Maud (Natal Area Chairman) and Mrs. E. A. de Villiers (member of the Central Executive) welcomed her.

MAVIS PALMER
(Natal Area Secretary, Toc H W.A.)

PICTURE SHOWS: *Mrs. E. O. de Villiers—a member of the Central Executive; Miss Frances Beeton (centre), Scottish Area Secretary, Toc H Women's Association, at Albert Park, Durban, on her way to Australia on the "Northern Star", and Mrs. Irene Maud, Natal Area Chairman.*

OVERSEAS

By **ELISABETH WORTH**
Overseas Secretary

Here is news from two modest Branches, far apart, who seldom report and obviously feel that they are unspectacular. Will you really think so when you have read these notes? Surely they are typical, in quietly trying to meet their own *local* needs?

BRISBANE Branch, one of the two in that city in **AUSTRALIA**, reports a membership of around sixteen, and says that it is carrying on quietly with some useful jobs, even though not as glamorous or spectacular as some of the new post-war organizations around them. At Christmas, besides holding the more usual kinds of party for under-privileged and children, each member helped to provide a luxury hamper for one of the Toc H members and his family. This man has been a polio case for many years and his Toc H Branch sent him and his family for a seaside holiday, so the women helped by providing the hamper. They visit a ward of incurables at the hospital regularly each fortnight and give a Christmas party there. Some members prepare supper once a month at the Spastic Centre and visit a Home for Spastics where they do the mending. Quite a number of Knee Rugs have been made by members during the year and given to people in these Homes. Old folk in a Home much enjoyed an outing arranged by the Branch.

The main job over many years is helping the Bush Children's Health Scheme. The children from the outback arrive every six weeks, and two or three members rise at 5 a.m. to meet the trains, prepare breakfast, and when they go to work, other members take over for the day, the workers returning to make the tea and to put the children on trains again. They go to the seaside homes run by the Brisbane Council of Social Service. Some children, coming from far-off farms, have never seen a train, tram or even a city. One small coloured lad did not know what an ice cream was. As they were going through the town one day a man stopped and said to the attendant "Cripes, do you collect 'em?" to which the member replied, "No, they are

cheaper by the dozen!" The Branch has recently welcomed a member from Ipswich, England.

HONG KONG Branch wrote their sympathy with the home Branches over the winter of snow and ice and added: "This is the time of year when we recover our vitality and forget the damp and fog and terrific rain of the summer. As a result, our knitting needles have been flying fast, making warm things for our orphans and old people. We have recently made two excursions out to the New Territories to distribute warm clothes, the first time with twenty-five cardigans and pullovers of all sizes, and some blankets, and the second time with more cardigans and over thirty leggings for the toddling babies, all housed in a huge orphanage near Tai Po. It is a joy to see these happy youngsters, most of them 'abandoned babies', some whose fathers are in prison and some in hospital as drug addicts. Among them are a number of polio victims and spastic babies, and one or two sad little ones who are mentally retarded. However, they are wonderfully cared for. The work which is being done among the poor has to be seen to be believed, and if only the Colony could control the illegal entry of hundreds a week, we might be able to see an end to the relief work. There are many larger organizations here and our Toc H work is not spectacular, but we work quietly on and our subscriptions go direct to the orphanages or the Old Ladies' Home, which we know personally, so that they can make use of the money on things they themselves specially need." Like most lone Branches, Hong Kong suffers from members continually coming and going, but it keeps steadily on through all the changes and is always glad to greet travelling members.

YOUR OWN SNAPSHOTS OFTEN REPRODUCE WELL AND, TAKEN ON THE SPOT, ARE WORTH SENDING TO SHOW US

. . . what you are up to !

MAVIS PALMER of Natal writes: —

ELMA WEBSTER, known to us all as "Toffee", of the infectious laughter and twinkling blue eyes, passed suddenly to higher service on Tuesday, 8th January, 1963. She was fifty-eight, and in her home at Grenoside, Yorkshire, where she had lived with her family since 1960, the year when she left South Africa.

Elma Mackintosh joined the League of Women Helpers in 1926, and because she was sweet and good, as stated in the Mackintosh advertisement, her colleagues called her "Toffee". Those of us who only knew her in the latter years did not know her by any other name. In April 1935 she married Harold Webster, whom she had met at a Toc H meeting. They were also both members of the same Congregational Church, where "Toffee" taught in the Sunday School.

Although she had a home and young son to care for, her interest in the Movement never flagged. She was Transvaal Provincial Secretary before the Headquarters were formed in Johannesburg.

Then when her husband was transferred to Durban in 1947, "Toffee" continued working for the Movement, and started the General Members Branch in Natal. Out of this membership she started Coronation Branch, of which she was its Kingpin until she left for overseas in 1960. She was, for a time, Area Chairman and helped to organize the National Rally in Durban in 1955. The highlight of her Toc H career came in 1960 when she was presented to the Queen Mother at the Festival in the Royal Albert Hall, representing South Africa. Last year she and her husband visited the Old House at Poperinge. One of the jobs near to her heart, and to which she gave a great deal of her time as well as material assistance, was the Greyville Occupational Centre for children, which functioned during the school holidays. She also did duty as Secretary of the Natal District Women's Association of the Congregational Church for five years. The Toc H lunch Forum was another of her interests, and she was always ready to take over at a moment's notice in an emergency. "Toffee" did not seek the limelight, but preferred to work in the background, and there are many, in Toc H and outside it, who are grateful to her for kindnesses received.

ELSIE POTTER, Chairman of the Overseas Committee adds a personal note of appreciation: —

"Toffee" Webster was among those who met me on Johannesburg station when I first arrived there in August 1937 and we have been friends ever since. During my first months in the

On the left, Mrs. Webster, seen here with Marjorie Phillips

'TOFFEE'

Two appreciations of a member whose interest in Toc H Women's Association never flagged . . .

Headquarters Office she not only helped with the routine work, but could always be relied on to give me endless information about South African affairs, whether social, political or religious, of which I was then woefully ignorant. She was extremely intelligent, and her shrewd understanding of people and circumstances, and her quick sense of humour made her an invaluable friend and member. I continued to seek her advice on innumerable matters all down the years and I shall always be grateful, and glad, to have known her.

THE ORIGIN OF THE

TODAY the Ceremony of Light, to all Toc H members, is part and parcel of a Toc H Meeting, wherever they may go—whether it is held at the beginning, in the middle or at the end of a Meeting; wherever they travel, all over the world, any Branch Meeting they attend will have a Ceremony of Light. I also think that it is a commendable thing that we in Toc H always take the trouble to give a short explanation of this Ceremony whenever there are guests at a meeting, whether they be visitors, friends or guest speakers, so that they do not think, when the lights are suddenly switched off that they are about to attend a séance or something! But how many of us live on this simple explanation?

I would like to take you back for a few moments, to try to capture the atmosphere of Toc H in the war years, when Toc H was such a *real* thing in the lives of those soldiers on the front in the 1914-18 war.

The whole story of Talbot House, Poperinge, cannot be embarked upon here, but we can reflect for a while on its fellowship founded on the common service of time, its freedom and its faith. Thinking of its fellowship I would like to read you a little poem: —

> Little we dream who gather here tonight
> From East and West, how firm His purpose stands
> Towards the thing, so wonderfully made
> Till He, who bade the room be ready, comes.
>
> Meanwhile, the simplest thoughts, Toc H is HOME,
> The place where we are sure of one another,
> Here is our workshop of wise character
> Let duty without discord dwell herein
> HOME, WORK, LOVE, TRUST, these are four
> binding words.

Next we come to Freedom, and I think we are all familiar with the little notices which were to be found dotted all round the Old House . . . over the Chaplain's Door, one read "All rank abandon ye who enter here" . . . by the stairs "Come upstairs and risk meeting the Chaplain", and many more.

As the men of the first World War, those that were left, settled down into civilian life again, so the spirit of Talbot

By S. M. KNIGHT

CEREMONY OF LIGHT

"This talk about the Ceremony of Light was given by the Pilot in Bulawayo," wrote A. B. S. Macfie from Hastings, New Zealand, "it is very good and I hope you will use it in March."

House remained with them as a real and living thing, just needing a spark to set it alight. This spark broke into flame in 1919 when Toc H was re-born in London with a sum of less than £20 and the precarious tenure of a fourth-floor building. At No. 36, Red Lion Square, Tubby and Pettifer (better known as "the Gen") kept open house. In lieu of a bell there hung from the top window to the porch, a long piece of string attached to which was a luggage label, inscribed in Tubby's handwriting "Toc H Talbot House—once of Poperinge and Ypres".

WITH the help of the Communicant Roll from Talbot House—and may I add here that "Roll" sounds a grand name but it described in reality the one remaining out of two sandbags, the other one having been lost somewhere in the English Channel, into which were stuffed hundreds of flimsy thin papers on which were the names and addresses of all those who had used the Upper Room—Tubby was able to contact the men and women who had been to Talbot House, and so the sparks were lit, up and down the British Isles, Toc H was re-born. . . . Men all over the country responded to Tubby's suggestion of restarting Toc H in civilian life. Branches were started all over the country and everyone fought for a firm stand for Toc H. Everyone was putting forth suggestions on what lines the meetings should be run, and it is really from a putting together of these that we get our "Ceremony of Light" as it is today.

THE memory, or light patch from the darkness of war, still shone out to those men, reminding them of their days in Talbot House, their friends who were there with them, many of whom had not returned from the front line; so, one Branch in Scotland always used to leave one chair empty at their meetings. In 1921 the Cheltenham Branch had already made the suggestion that at each meeting of a Unit a silence of half a minute be kept in remembrance of old friends left behind

in the Salient and elsewhere. This practice was quite widely followed and no doubt varied here and there.

THINGS were getting under way for a Consideration by 1922 and the feeling was that something visible should interpret the spirit and unity of Toc H. In the first printed number of the Toc H Journal in June 1922, Barclay Baron wrote, "if Toc H must have a sign, what shall it be? Let us be bold and hazard a suggestion . . . a lamp".

Read *Here and There,* p. 82, starting "This idea of a lamp stemmed ..... commemorated in its symbol".

In October 1922 Tubby suggested some words to be used at the lighting of the Lamp, other people made suggestions and these were modified until emerged the Ceremony of Light as we know it today.

Read part of the Sermon which Tubby delivered on 7th December, 1928, at the first Lamp-lighting ceremony of the Toc H League of Women Helpers. It is in *Here and There,* p. 90. Article 9. "In his sermon, the Founder Padre . . . a lamp to Shine Afar."

"WE WILL REMEMBER"

MINNIE WILLIAMS—*Bedhampton & Farlington*—23.3.60—5.11.62.

NORAH WINIFRED WILSON—*Dunedin*—1941—20.11.62.

ISABELLE WINN—*Toftwood*—10.10.55—2.12.62.

BEATTIE HALLIDAY—*Rushden Royal*—5.11.58—4.12.62.

M. L. (BENNY) BENNETT—*Kentish Town*—6.3.33—December, 1962.

BARBARA LOTHIAN—*Edinburgh*—10.5.39—5.11.62.

MRS. SCOULAR—*Builder, Llandudno Central*—12.4.54—1.12.62.

FLORENCE EELES—*Builder, Bedhampton & Farlington*—23.3.60—8.12.62.

PHYLLIS WILKINS—*Wroughton*—28.1.47—13.10.62.

AGATHA WATSON—*Builder (former member Bexhill-on-Sea)*—1.4.52—20.11.62.

ELMA (TOFFEE) WEBSTER—*S. African member in Johannesburg, and Durban, latterly in Sheffield, Yorks.*—?—8.1.63.

ELIZABETH M. GRASS—*Builder, Eltham*—15.6.59—25.12.62.

MRS. N. CANHAM—*Croydon*—4.3.27—30.9.62.

PARIS . . . .

COME along, one of them's going to entertain."

The occasion was the monthly meeting of the "Seniors" club in Paris, and "one of them" was one of the old people.

"This afternoon," she announced, "I am going to read some verses written by myself."

There was a buzz of interest, wondering what hidden talent was about to be revealed. But the subject, to me anyway, was of far greater interest than I had anticipated for the verses turned out to be an account in rhyme of her wartime experiences in an internment camp at Besançon.

What surprised me most, as I listened, was that such harassing experiences could be given so light a touch. Even more surprising was the reaction of the other listeners, for each time that she paused in the recital there was an outburst of merriment. Perhaps, I thought, they had missed the full significance.

But how wrong I was! For when, at the end, we asked if anyone else in the room had also been at Besançon, more than half those present, and there were about thirty of them, held up their hands.

However, not all these—now old—people spent the war in internment camps, even though they remained in France. The majority of them, having spent most of their lives here, speak excellent French and, living with loyal families, passed as French citizens. Moreover, in this capacity, some were able to give very great assistance to the Resistance.

The presence of so many elderly, lonely and sometimes (but not always) near-destitute Britishers in Paris always seems to be a matter of considerable surprise to those with only an armchair knowledge of the French capital.

LIVING on an old-age pension is bad enough at home. What on earth, people ask, must it be like in France where the cost of living is so much higher? And why don't the old people go back to England?

The answer to that is that, having spent most of their lives here, they just cannot (even if they want to) bring themselves to make the move, particularly since hardly any of them have any ties or family left in England. Moreover, a number of them

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MARIAN DESCHAMPS WRITES FROM THE GAY CAPITAL OF SOME WHO ARE GAY IN HEART AGAINST MANY ODDS—

have never lived there at all, being born in France although of British parents.

And how, one asks, have they spent their lives here? Somewhat differently, I would say, from a similar community of old folk in England. A number of them are ex-governesses. After some forty years of active life here, retirement to England would be difficult for them to envisage. Others have been married to Frenchmen but, once widowed, have found it too late to go back.

There is quite an element, too, of one-time entertainers—a dear old coloured, ex-Music Hall artist, who had done tours all over the Continent; an ex-circus girl, one of three such sisters, and although now nearly ninety she still manages to come down from Montmartre whenever she can to our club. And another —although in a somewhat different sphere—an ex-correspondent of a London and a Paris newspaper.

Yet they all share two important points in common—the frustrations and difficulties of old-age in Paris and, above all, the fact that they have remained most loyally and resolutely British.

The Paris Woman's Branch of Toc H began in 1938. It was, of course, impossible for it to continue during the war years, but it began again in 1946 with five members. Four of these, alas, have now returned to England, but the fifth, Mrs. Lynch, we are most fortunate in having as our chairman and her work is also well-known in various other fields of the British community. We are also most fortunate in having Mrs. Monteith, who is indefatigable, as our secretary, Mme. Benoit as our excellent treasurer and Miss Snow, well loved and appreciated by everyone.

These four seem to me to form the backbone of our Branch, of which we have fourteen members in all. But this number is quite inadequate, particularly as the majority have full-time jobs, for the large amount of visiting always needed among the old people.

AN EARLY MEMBER

Mrs. CANHAM, who died last year, was one of the earliest members of Croydon Branch and latterly became a general member. Her husband met Tubby at Talbot House during the 1914-18 war and is a member of Toc H Croydon Branch. Tubby was a guest at their golden wedding celebration in August 1962.

MUSIC *for* REFUGEES

By JAN SHEPPARD

THE High Commissioner for Refugees has decided to tap unusual sources in his search for funds. He is issuing a long-playing record for this purpose.

In writing to me about this venture, the High Commissioner's representative in London says that the High Commissioner has stated that the help of voluntary organisations is essential in order to bring the attention of a greater public to this scheme.

The following details have been issued from his office: "stars like Bing Crosby, Maurice Chevalier, Ella Fitzgerald and Edith Piaf feature on a unique long-playing record to be issued at the end of February to raise funds for refugees throughout the world. The record is published by the United Nations and sells at the special price of £1—about half the normal price of such a record. The record is unique because the stars who record on it record normally for several different companies and have never before appeared on one disc. They are singing songs new to them.

"The special selling price has been made possible because the stars have all waived their royalty rights, the makers have pressed and distributed the record at cost and dealers throughout the country are accepting nominal profits.

"The stars on this record are Louis Armstrong, Bing Crosby, Maurice Chevalier, Nat King Cole, Doris Day, Ella Fitzgerald, Mahalia Jackson, Nana Mouskouri, Patti Page, Los Paraguayos, Edith Piaf, Anne Shelton and Caterina Valente.

"Called 'All Star Festival' the record will be available in shops in Britain from February 26th, 1963. It will also be sold through voluntary organisations. The profits from 'All Star Festival' will go to the United Nations High Commission for Refugees and will be used to carry out the UNHCR programme in different parts of the world."

It is hoped that members will do all in their power to encourage the sale of this record. They could do this by displaying posters, by organising local publicity around the record by placing the record for sale in bazaars and sales of work. Regional Secretaries will have full details of publicity material and where it can be obtained.

100 YEA

TODAY there are 90 National Red Cross Societies throughout the world, with 157,000,000 members whose primary object is to furnish aid to the sick and wounded in time of war, but they have come into being because over a hundred years ago one man was so moved by the sufferings of the wounded after a battle that he could not rest until he had done something for them and for others wounded in future battles.

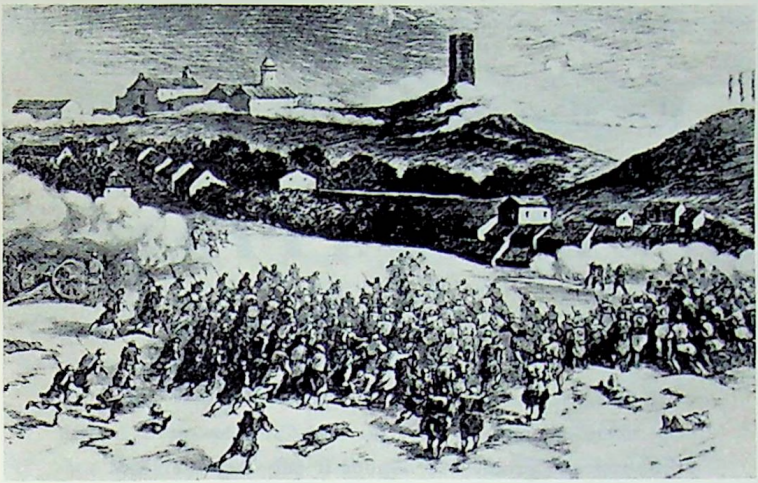
On 24th June, 1859, Jean Henry Dunant, a young Swiss business man, was passing through Solferino in Northern Italy, where a fierce battle was raging. Mustering the local townspeople Dunant gave what help he could to the wounded and dying brought into the nearby town of Castiglione. The horror of the sights he saw made a lasting impression on him and three years later he published a book, "A Memory of Solferino", describing the sufferings of the wounded, and urging a formation of voluntary aid societies, with a permanent existence in peacetime, to succour the wounded in war.

He succeeded in interesting so many important people in the subject of his book, that a body of Swiss citizens met together in Geneva to discuss it. A year later, in 1864, diplomatic representatives of 16 different States signed the first Geneva Convention, which laid down that in war, sick and wounded soldiers of both sides should be protected, nursed and cared for. The Convention adopted, as a protective symbol, the red cross on a white ground (the colours of the Swiss flag reversed), and the motto Inter Arma Caritas—Charity in War.

The Committee of five (Dunant and four others), who steered the Red Cross Movement in its early stages, was the forerunner of the International Red Cross Committee we know today, membership of which must not exceed 25 Swiss citizens, and whose neutral character is all important in time of war or civil strife. In 1919, the League of Red Cross Societies was formed, linking together National Societies all over the world in a spirit of mutual help and understanding and to help them expand in their peacetime work for the improvement of health, the prevention of disease and the mitigation of suffering. Although the work of a National Society may vary according to its own particular needs, the fundamental principles of the Red Cross are the same everywhere.

RS BACK

NINETEEN SIXTY-THREE is Centenary Year of the Foundation of the Red Cross, and this milestone in its history will be celebrated throughout the world



The Battle of Solferino: Midsummer Day 1859. The picture is by S. Riesner after Godefrey Durand

The British Red Cross Society which now has 68 Branches in the United Kingdom and 42 branches in British territories overseas was first active in the Franco-Prussian War of 1870. Since that time it has played its traditional rôle in both world wars and under its supplemental charters has carried out a diversity of peacetime activities under three main headings: FIRST AID—at road posts, beach huts, airfields, cinemas, entertainments, sporting events; in camp sick bays, hopfield dispensaries and for industrial undertakings; AUXILIARY NURSING—in hospitals, homes and clinics; and for home-bound patients under the supervision of the District Nurse;

running medical loan depôts and helping with the blood transfusion service. WELFARE work in hospitals; running trolley-shops, picture libraries and diversional handicrafts and visiting home-bound patients and invalid and crippled children. For old people there are clubs, homes, meals-on-wheels and clubs for disabled, homes for invalid children. Escort duties are undertaken and whenever disasters occur the Red Cross goes into action.

Service to suffering humanity is the keynote of all Red Cross work.

PLANS *for* CELEBRATION

Underlying the whole of the British Red Cross Society's publicity campaign throughout Centenary Year is the plan for more recruits, embodied in the slogan "We need YOU to help others". In time of need the Red Cross has never lacked public support; people will respond if only they are asked and told how and where their services can be usefully employed.

THE HIGHLIGHT OF THE BRITISH RED CROSS SOCIETY CELEBRATIONS WILL OCCUR ON 8th MAY—WORLD RED CROSS DAY—AT THE ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL IN THE PRESENCE OF THE QUEEN, PATRON AND PRESIDENT OF THE SOCIETY, THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH, THE DUKE AND DUCHESS OF GLOUCESTER AND THE PRINCESS ROYAL.

2,500 members will be assembled representing every aspect of the British Red Cross Society's activities.

UNMARRIED MOTHERS

WHAT picture do these two words convey to most of us? Whether we think of them as naughty girls or merely unfortunate, there are not many of us who are not moved to feelings of pity for them. To suffer the discomforts of pregnancy and childbirth, to hold her baby in her arms, and then to part with it to complete strangers, is indeed an unhappy experience for any woman.

After hearing a talk by the secretary for the local Home for Unmarried Mothers (a home run by the County Diocesan Council for Moral Welfare), we asked if we might help by giving the girls in the home some assistance with their sewing or knitting, which would at the same time give us the opportunity for a friendly visit. The committee of the home welcomed our suggestion, but asked that the same members should go every week, rather than have the job run by a rota of helpers. Two of us decided we would take it on regularly for an experimental period. If we want to hand over to someone else at a later date, it can be done at a time when there is a change-over of girls in the home. The girls are there for three months: six weeks before and six weeks after the baby is born.

WE started last November and went every week for what was at first supposed to be a one-hour visit, but soon became two hours. We have become increasingly interested and realize the value of regular visits by the same people.

We found a warm welcome from the girls who were in the home when we first started, and we quickly got to work and helped them to make new skirts to wear after their confinement and gave assistance with difficult knitting patterns. These girls seemed glad to see us and to have a friendly chat. We have been careful not to ask them any personal questions—we know them only by their Christian names—and we don't even know where they come from. We have no desire to preach to them and we have found that the girls don't want to discuss their situation with us. They talk about their homes, their families and their jobs—but never mention their men-friends.

After the good start we made, we were disappointed after Christmas to find ourselves with some newcomers who seemed to resent us and did not want to co-operate. However, we found

A NORTH COUNTRY MEMBER TELLS HER EXPERIENCE OF WORK WITH UNMARRIED MOTHERS—NOT ALL HONEY AND NOT FOR "NOSY-PARKERS"!

that some of their resentment disappeared as they realized we were not there to pry, and we realized that the full-time workers at the home also have their difficult times with some girls; we just had to go on in the hope that one or two at least would appreciate our desire to be friends with them. Molly, who goes with me, always shares her cigarettes with them, which has been a very good way of breaking the ice. I took my kittens one evening for them to play with, and when no one wants to sew or knit, we have found they welcome a game of Monopoly or Scrabble. Molly has once or twice set the hair of girls the night before they went home.

WE have often admired the spirit with which the girls face up to this difficult situation, and the good fellowship which exists between them, and I am sure the kindly and understanding administration of the home contributes to this.

I have been asked what good we think we are doing, and I know this is impossible to answer. Molly and I feel that it is enough to offer our friendship to girls who are going through a very bitter experience. In a recent *Guardian* article on homes similar to this, a young mother was quoted as saying "We lose confidence in ourselves". The Rev. D. Galliford, Director of Moral Welfare for the Diocese of York, speaking at the annual meeting of this home said the same thing, that, feeling they have lost the respect of their parents and friends, they also lose their *self*-respect—and he felt that we were doing a great deal of good by sitting alongside them each week. We don't know whether we do any good or not—we hope so, but there have been rewarding moments when girls have come to see us out of the door on the night before they left and said "Thank you for coming"—or the flash of gratitude if we make a reassuring remark about their future. Only recently I was heartened by being greeted in the street by one girl who was visiting the town with her mother, and was introduced as "one of the ladies who came every week and had a bit of fun with us".

If any other Branches feel like tackling this job, I would say: Don't judge, don't be nosy, don't moralize and don't be discouraged. Just go and make friends and I am sure you will feel it is worth while.

WHAT NEWS FROM YOU FOR NEXT TIME? WRITE NOW!

ATTENTION is drawn to the *Joint* headed writing-paper which is available from Toc H Inc., 15 Trinity Square, London, E.C.3, for use by Joint Units and for activities being *jointly* arranged by Toc H and Toc H Women's Association Branch, District or Area. *Price*: 7/- per 100 sheets (plus postage).

ACKLAM W.A., writes Jim Brass, helped Toc H in organizing reception and distribution of 5,000 toys, books and games sent to Middlesbrough on 12th December as a result of an appeal by Loughton (Essex) Branch of Toc H for toys for children of the unemployed. Tees-side is far from being a distressed area but

n t s *and* n w
o e e s

there are some children who would otherwise have gone without. Local Branches, church organizations, Red Cross, Community Council, Ministry of Pensions, etc., came armed with lists of names and ages of needy children. They then took them away from the central depôt for distribution. Members joined together for the World Chain of Light in the hall where the toys were being sorted.

On 10th December, 1962, the Women's Association Branch helped Middlesbrough Branch of Toc H to run a Christmas party for 32 children whose names had been provided by the local inspector of N.S.P.C.C. Each child received a present from Father Christmas—presents were given by friends of Toc H.

Children were collected from home and returned by members of Toc H and of the Institute of Advanced Motorists Club.

BARGOED, reports E. Buckland, enjoyed their Special Efforts week. This opened with a jumble sale and ended with a Silver Wedding party. In between, we held a coffee morning in the home of one of our members. The Silver Wedding Party was given to the Branch by our Jobmaster, Gwladys Hughes, and we all wished Mr. and Mrs. Hughes many more years of happiness together.

Photograph by courtesy of THE READING STANDARD
The Mayor after the opening of the Autumn Fayre run by Wokingham.

BIRCHINGTON have, writes Doris Reeves, throughout the past year (1962) extended their money-making activities to include coffee mornings, a street collection with a barrel organ, besides the normal "sales". The idea was to afford a holiday for young girls in special cases who are not catered for by the normal organizations. With the assistance of the **MAIDSTONE** Branch, six girls between the ages of 11 and 14 years were chosen from the Maidstone area; help in making the choice was given by the District Nurse. The girls were taken to the guest house at Minnis Bay by members of the Maidstone Branch where they stayed for one week. A varied programme had been arranged, including visits to local places of interest, a day coach trip to Canterbury, Folkestone and Ashford, an evening firework display and a visit to a summer show. A member of Maidstone acted as housemother and during the day, besides help from the Birchington members, a local school mistress—Miss Pamela Haswell—gave up her own summer holiday to be with the children all day, organizing games for them on the beach. The venture proved so successful that plans are now going ahead for a similar project next year.

EAST LONDON AREA FAYRE, reports Janet Rauch, raised £86; goods were sent from sixteen Branches and members from nine, present on the day. Mrs. A. Tiarks, the Bishop of Chelmsford's wife, opened the fayre and "Martha" was on the spot, too.

Profits are to be halved—one half to the Jubilee Fund of Toc H Women's Association and the other to the Freedom from Hunger Campaign.

EDINBURGH reports that the Rev. Dr. J. Weiberg, the Rabbi for Edinburgh, spoke to Toc H Women's Association during "People to People" Week.

ELM PARK GROUP: We are, reports Vera Cornwell, at the end of our first year. In January the Padre of Elm Park Toc H approached a small group of young women to see if they were interested in starting a Toc H Women's Group. Weekly meetings were arranged. As one member put it "nothing much seemed to happen at first—there weren't any new members for a while, and not many jobs", but then things began to move, and we have now trebled our membership, and are still anxious to increase our number.

We have done various jobs, including a joint job when six members of the Men's Branch and six of us took a party of children from the local Children's Home to the London Zoo. We are not officially a Branch yet, but four of our "founder" members were Initiated at Romford on 5th November by Elsa Perrin.

HOVE, reports E. Rogers, with the help of friends, made, during 1962, 175 woollies. About 150 of these went to St. Joseph's Home, which is run by Little Sisters of the Poor, for the Old People's Christmas gifts. The others we gave to local old people visited during the year by members of the Branch.

KENT AREA TOC H WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION are holding a Family Gathering on Sunday, 28th April, 1963, at Dunning Hall, Maidstone, reports Joyce L. de Levante. Members in the Kent Area are invited to bring their husbands and friends to hear our guest speaker, Miss A. B. S. Maclie, and to take part in a short service conducted by Padre Clifford Pollard, Toc H Kent Area Padre.

KIRKLEY and OULTON BROAD Branches held, reports G. Lindsay, their Autumn Fayre at St. Mark's Institute, Oulton Broad, on 27th October. Among the many varieties of stall, there were those devoted to mystery parcels, white elephants, bottles, home-made cakes and many other good things. (See photo, p. 36.) The proceeds totted up to £175—£77 went to H.Q. and the same amount to St. John Ambulance Brigade, the local branch. The balance, after the expenses had been deducted, was shared by the two Branches towards the next Fayre.

Photograph by courtesy of the ESSEX CHRONICLE

Platform occasion—Mrs. Tiarks at the opening of the East London Fayre. Left and right of picture, Jean Perry and Elsa Perrin; outside, "Martha"!

LOUGHTON, reports E. Tomkins, entertained thirty old people at our Christmas Party, the oldest of whom was nearly ninety years old. Each guest took home a gift from the Tree.

"MARTHA": After her successful week on Tees-side (see last LOG) "Martha" was used as a collecting centre for Lady Hoare's Thalidomide Babies Appeal, and stood outside the Royal Exchange in the City for a week. £180 was collected by a small team of members and friends. "Martha" also did useful service at the London Festival and Chelmsford Fayre and then was laid up over Christmas and during the bad weather period in early January. "Martha's" real hard work will begin again at the end of February, when Poole District plan to use her for the Freedom from Hunger Campaign and from then until October she has a very full programme.

STREATHAM: For many years Streatham Toc H men and women have run a summer-party every year for the Deaf.

Dumb and Blind people. This year instead, they were asked to run a winter party—at 42 Trinity Square—and there they entertained some sixty. Marjorie Rorke, in reporting the occasion, asks: Have you ever been to such a tea-party? Everything is incredibly quiet, yet everyone is talking nineteen to the dozen in their own way.

The Streatham Branches of men and women met together last December for the World Chain of Light and felt it would be helpful to "look wider" and try to realize in some way the extent of the Family circle. With much help from Elisabeth Worth, we got Mr. Abiola Ajomale of Lagos and Mr. Sunder Pichamuthu from Bombay, and now with the Norwood Branch, to tell us of Toc H in their home countries. On this evening, we had three new members initiated into the Women's Branch by Jean Perry.

TOTNES held a stall in the main street to help the blind in World Health Year. A rota of members manned the stall, reports Winifred Wallis, and handed out about 400 forms about corneal grafting. Over 300 signatures were received. The Torbay District had a visit from Jean Parry who told us all about "Martha".

Here is a shot of Weymouth's "Caledonian Market"

Photograph by courtesy of THE SOUTHERN TIMES

Modern picture? Some of the 175 woollies knitted last year by Hove

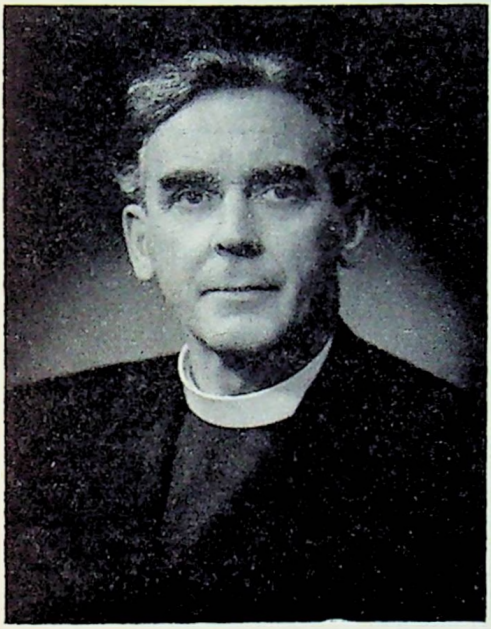
The two **WEYMOUTH** Branches (Men and Women) held a successful bazaar in November for local Toc H funds. Also in November, Radipole Toc H Veterans' Club, run by the members of Radipole and Weymouth Branches, held a successful "Caledonian Market" to raise funds towards the Veterans' Christmas Party. (See photograph on page 57.)

WOKINGHAM, reports Mollie Hoddinott, ran an Autumn Fayre in October which was opened by the Mayor, Dr. P. Pigott. Forty pounds out of the proceeds has been sent to Headquarters as a Special Effort.

WORTHING, reports Edith Andrews, have been writing to Mrs. Wright of Riverside, S. Rhodesia, and had most interesting letters in return.

MOTHERING SUNDAY, writes Madge Hancock, will soon be here (24th March, 1963)—a day we hold dear in thought and thanksgiving for our mothers, while for those who are mothers, it means a few delightful hours of extra fuss and love from their offspring.

Toc H is a family and the Branch the smallest unit of its family life. What of *its* parents? Surely the Chairman is the Mother figure, ministering to the family's practical needs, upholding the points of the Compass, encouraging the shy, silent or weaker members, quieting the noisy extroverts, averting or quelling squabbles, ensuring "fair shares", sharing its troubles, joys and fun? So why not, on this coming Mothering Sunday, remember also the "Mums" of our many Branches and say with your other prayers, a special and much needed one for them.



THE APPOINTMENT OF THE REV. COLIN CUTTELL AS VICAR OF ALL HALLOWS BARKING-BY-THE-TOWER, GUILD CHURCH OF TOC H. WAS ANNOUNCED ON FEBRUARY 4th. IT IS HOPED THAT IN THE NEXT "LOG" WE MAY CARRY A SHORT BIOGRAPHY OF THE NEW VICAR

Photograph by courtesy of BASSANO

40TH BIRTHDAY

One or two more pictures and paragraphs about The Year have reached us . . .

HOLLAND ON SEA, reports Constance Nelson, held a successful Coffee Morning in November combined with a Bring and Buy Sale, and were by this able to send £24 12s. 6d. as our contribution to the 40th Birthday Year. H.Q. helped us with literature which we put on the table and as a result enrolled four new builders.

WHAPLODE, reports Madge Benn, presented a radio set to Patchett Lodge Old People's Home to commemorate the 40th Birthday Year of Toc H Women's Association. They money was raised by a jumble sale and a whist drive and both were given good publicity by the local press.

TOTNES manned a stall, an exhibition of photographs, other display material, leaflets and booklets as part of their 40th Birthday effort to get Toc H better known. (*Photograph by courtesy of Nicholas Horne, Totnes.*)

SOUTH DORSET DISTRICT: Phyllis Batten reports, we have in this District one Branch at Bridport, one at Dorchester and four in the Borough of Weymouth, and now there is a fifth starting in Weymouth. All the Branches combined this year to hold our Michaelmas Service at Bridport at St. Swithin's Church. To wind up our 40th Birthday Celebrations we held a dinner in Weymouth and, with the Mayor and Mayoress, our Regional Secretary, Alice Welford, and representatives from the Men's Branches present, about a hundred members and friends enjoyed a happy evening. The Silver Cup we won in the Carnival for the "Most Meritorious Entry" was proudly displayed. Helen Benbow came to speak to us, giving us a challenge to "get new members and throw them into the job and let them get on with it". (See pp. 57 and 58.)

A good display at Totnes

Whaplode's Birthday Gift

LETTERS

DEAR EDITOR,

Thank you for publishing my article in THE LOG. I like the layout. I will order one or two more copies from Miss Adams.

Owing to the severe weather and so having to miss a Branch meeting I have only just received THE LOG. I am so interested to read about Pinetown, Natal, as I spent four months there just eight years ago. I had a wonderful welcome from the Women's Branch there as did my husband from the Men's Branch. I joined in all their activities and took my turn in visiting the Hill Crest Chronic Sick Hospital. I well remember the crumpets made by Mrs. Jo Impson which we took for the patients, and how much appreciated they were. I also remember how *hot* it was!

MARY B. LADELL

DEAR EDITOR,

In the November/December issue of THE LOG a letter appeared from Zoë Whitehead about the opening of Kolbe House, Ealing, a Home for Polish Old People and ex-psychiatric patients. It occurs to me that the membership might like to hear about the progress of this venture.

The Old People's part of the house is full, and the residents seem happy, contented, and comfortable. Eight ex-psychiatric patients have been admitted. As soon as the house opened, unemployment came to Ealing through the closing of some factories. Anxiety was felt as to whether ex-psychiatric patients would be able to obtain employment in these circumstances. Happily the fears were groundless, and of the eight patients, three are already in settled employment, have left Kolbe House, and are settled in places of their own. The Social Worker from Kolbe House still keeps in touch with them and all is going well. The vacancies will soon be filled as there is a waiting list of patients who can, we hope, benefit from residence at Kolbe House.

MARY RUSHWORTH
(Chislehurst)

DEAR EDITOR,

May I, through THE LOG, convey my grateful thanks to the members of Newbury Branch, who were so kind and generous to my daughter-in-law, Dorothy, one of their members, during the weeks before Christmas when she was in hospital. Thank you all once again.

VIOLET PRATT
(Wellingboro' Branch)

DEAR EDITOR,

On behalf of the West Midlands Area I would like to thank Hatfield Branch for their kind letter which was published in the January issue of THE LOG.

While writing, may I convey the regrets of the West Midlands Area to all those members who had to be disappointed in regard to tickets for the Service at Coventry Cathedral and to explain that we were overwhelmed with applications. As it was a West Midlands celebration, our own Branches had to have some priority, but even they had to be cut down in order to bring our numbers down to 1,800 which the Precentor assured us is the absolute capacity of the Cathedral. Much as we would have liked to accommodate everyone it was impossible and we apologize to those members who had to be refused.

BERYL M. PUGH

DEAR EDITOR,

I was a Builder in my Branch, Holland-on-Sea; we were roughly six full members and about eight Builders including myself for a very considerable period. That was about five years ago. In September 1960 I went to S. Rhodesia for 12 months and with a helpful introduction from H.Q. London made the acquaintance of Peggy Jones, then Chairman of the Belvedere Branch, Salisbury. I paid a subscription to that Branch as a Builder and then began a wonderful 12 months. I joined in all their activities which coincided with Phyllis Wolfe's visit to the Federation. I spent a training week-end at Lake McIlwaine when six new members were initiated from the three Salisbury Branches, I went to the 3½-day Rally at Bulawayo in 1961 which has already been reported in the THE LOG. I went to Johannesburg and met Edith Malcolm who introduced me to other S.A. Toc H members during my short stay. I was given everywhere a grand welcome.

When I arrived back home in October 1961, I decided I would apply for full membership of my Branch and I am now secretary. The Fellowship of Toc H I really found wonderful.

CONSTANCE NELSON
(Holland-on-Sea)

DEAR EDITOR,

A short time ago one of the letters published in THE LOG, ended by saying "ought members of the W.A. to read the JOURNAL" or by words to that effect; and I have thought this gives me the opportunity to say what I have always thought—that the W.A. is in duty bound to keep in close touch with Toc H, in order to fulfil our primary obligation of prayer for the whole

Movement—I have refrained from writing to THE LOG before, since I am an old woman with *plenty* of time for reading and prayer, and fulfil both so poorly that I felt ashamed to make any suggestion about it.

A second thing strengthened my decision to write—an article in a recent JOURNAL from a Prison Welfare Officer pointing out the wretched state of many prisoners on discharge, with nowhere to live, no work, and often no one to help—the writer asked whether Toc H and W.A. members would consider this. It seems to me as great a challenge to courage and spiritual strength as Tubby's call for help for lepers years ago.

Do you remember the Week's Good Cause Appeal a few weeks ago, telling about the Norman Houses for discharged prisoners? Could you publish that article in THE LOG? and would you think it proper to say that every Branch of the W.A. should take at least one copy of the JOURNAL and appoint a member to read it and report, and of course share it with any others willing to read it.

There are several agencies attempting to deal with the problem of helping discharged prisoners (the Church Army, and the S.O.S. Society and the New Bridge, besides the Discharged Prisoners Aid Society, etc.) but the problem is vast and the work most searching and difficult: many suffer more on return to normal life than in prison.

This is much too long—you can use any of it you think fit and in any way. I have discharged my "concern" (a lovely Quaker expression)! and am content.

Congratulations on the last LOG—very much alive.

RUTH SKELTON
(Late member Beaconsfield, now Builder)

(*But if you feel* THE LOG *has not published articles from time to time or work with discharged prisoners, you have not kept up with your reading! Best wishes—Editor.*)

DEAR EDITOR,

May I, through THE LOG, offer my thanks to *all* members of Toc H for the wonderful work you are doing.

During two long spells in a Bristol hospital this year I was never once left to feel lonely or forgotten and was showered with every possible kindness, in particular by members of the Dowend Branch.

WINIFRED FANCHAWE
(Ashburton)

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THE LOG

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